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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/689,537
Reply to OA dated September 30, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A portable terminal device of the foldable type comprising a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism, said hinge mechanism arranged to provide rotation of one of the pair of flat cabinets relative to the other of the pair of flat cabinets, each of the cabinets comprising a front cabinet half segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed and a rear cabinet half segment joined to the front cabinet half segment, said front cabinet half segment being a separate piece from said rear cabinet half segment, one of the pair of cabinets having the front cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof directly to the hinge mechanism and the other cabinet having the rear cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof directly to the hinge mechanism;

~~such that when the pair of cabinets are closed, with extraneous matter therebetween, no clearance is created in the joint between the front cabinet half segment and rear cabinet half segment of either of the pair of cabinets.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A portable terminal device of the foldable type according to claim 1 wherein one of the pair of flat cabinets is a manipulation-side cabinet provided with a plurality of manual keys, and the other cabinet is a display-side cabinet provided with a display, the

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front cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet and the rear cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet being connected to each other directly by the hinge mechanism.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A portable terminal device of the foldable type according to claim 1 wherein the front cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet is provided, as part of the hinge mechanism, with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, and the rear cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet is provided, as part of the hinge mechanism, with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, the annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet and the annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with each other and having fitted therein a first hinge unit, the other annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet and the other annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with each other and having fitted therein a second hinge unit.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A portable terminal device of the foldable type comprising a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism, each of the cabinets comprising a front cabinet half segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed and a rear cabinet half segment joined to the front cabinet half segment, said front cabinet half segment being a separate piece from said rear cabinet half segment, one of the pair of cabinets having the front cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having

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the rear cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the front cabinet half segment thereof, the other cabinet having the rear cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having the front cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the rear cabinet half segment thereof,

such that when the pair of cabinets are closed, with extraneous matter therebetween, no clearance is created in the joint between the front cabinet half segment and rear cabinet half segment of either of the pair of cabinets, wherein

the front cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet is provided with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, and the rear cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet is provided with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, the annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet and the annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with each other and having fitted therein a first hinge unit, the other annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet and the other annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with each other and having fitted therein a second hinge unit, and

the front cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet has a circular-arc piece projecting from the end thereof and positioned between the pair of annular pieces, and the rear cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet is provided at one end thereof with a partial member joined to the circular-arc piece for forming a hollow cylinder.

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Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A portable terminal device of the foldable type comprising a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism, each of the cabinets comprising a front cabinet half segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed and a rear cabinet half segment joined to the front cabinet half segment, said front cabinet half segment being a separate piece from said rear cabinet half segment, one of the pair of cabinets having the front cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having the rear cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the front cabinet half segment thereof, the other cabinet having the rear cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having the front cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the rear cabinet half segment thereof,

such that when the pair of cabinets are closed, with extraneous matter therebetween, no clearance is created in the joint between the front cabinet half segment and rear cabinet half segment of either of the pair of cabinets, wherein

the front cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet is provided with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, and the rear cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet is provided with a pair of annular pieces projecting from one end thereof and spaced apart from each other, the annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet and the annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with each other and having fitted therein a first hinge unit, the other annular piece of the manipulation-side cabinet and the other annular piece of the display-side cabinet being arranged side by side in contact with

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each other and having fitted therein a second hinge unit, and

the front cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet is provided with a projecting circular-arc piece positioned between the pair of annular pieces, and the rear cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet is provided at the end thereof with a partial member joined to the circular-arc piece for forming a hollow cylinder.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A portable terminal device of the foldable type according to claim 4 wherein a circuit board in the manipulation-side cabinet and a display in the display-side cabinet are connected to each other by a flexible lead, and the flexible lead is helically wound inside the hollow cylinder formed by the circular-arc piece and the partial member.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A portable terminal device of the foldable type according to claim 5 wherein a circuit board in the manipulation-side cabinet and a display in the display-side cabinet are connected to each other by a flexible lead, and the flexible lead is helically wound inside the hollow cylinder formed by the circular-arc piece and the partial member.